

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 03326 01 OF 02 211712Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----116998 211718Z /47

O 211650Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6975
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 3326

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: CLIFFORD INVITATION TO DENKTASH

REF: (A) STATE 302118, (B) NICOSIA 3307, (C) NICOSIA 3272

1. AT MY DEC 15 MEETING WITH DENKTASH (REF C), FOLLOWING TELCON WITH DEPT, I HAD DROPPED A HINT OF MR. CLIFFORD'S TENTATIVE THINKING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A WASHINGTON MEETING WITH DENKTASH. DENKTASH DID NOT THEN REACT, AND THE HINT HAD NO EFFECT ON HIS HARD-LINE POSITION OF THAT DAY AS HE CONVEYED IT LATER IN THE MEETING.

2. AT A SOCIAL OCCASION ON DEC 20, I HAD A FURTHER, LONGISH PRIVATE TALK WITH DENKTASH. I SAID THE SUGGESTION OF MR. CLIFFORD'S INTEREST OF WHICH I HAD EARLIER SPOKEN HAD NOW MATERIALIZED IN MESSAGE FORM. I COULD CONFIRM THAT CLIFFORD DID FEEL IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GET A CLOSER VIEW OF TURKISH CYPRIOT ATTITUDES, AND AN INVITATION LOOKING TOWARD A VISIT EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR WAS UNDER HIGH-LEVEL CONSIDERATION. WHILE IN MY INSTRUCTION PRIOR AGREEMENT ON A MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE WAS NOT POSED
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AS A CONDITION, IT WAS CLEAR THAT CLIFFORD AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE FELT PRIOR AGREEMENT WOULD SET A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE.

3. DENKTASH SAID VERY SERIOUSLY THAT HE WOULD WELCOME A CHANCE TO MEET WITH MR. CLIFFORD IN WASHINGTON AND ASKED THAT I SO REPORT. HE SAID HE, TOO, WISHED FOR EARLY AGREEMENT ON MISSING PERSONS. THIRD COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION, HOWEVER, MUST RPT MUST BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. SURELY USG DID NOT PROPOSE TO SWEEP ASIDE THE ROLE SPECIFIED FOR THE SYG AND HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. TO DO SO WOULD GIVE THE RUSSIANS AN OPENING TO CRITICIZE.

4. AFTER DISCUSSION, WE AGREED ON DESIRABILITY OF FOLLOWING TENTATIVE SEQUENCE: FOLLOWING RETURN OF CHELIK AND AMBASSADOR ONHON, CONVERSATIONS TO TAKE PLACE LOOKING TOWARD MISSING PERSONS AGREEMENT THAT WOULD BE, AT THAT STAGE, STILL CONFIDENTIAL AND IN US HANDS; AGREEMENT AND ICRC ROLE TO BE SOMEHOW WRAPPED INTO WALDHEIM'S VISIT TO CYPRUS JAN 14-16; DENKTASH'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON TO TAKE PLACE LATER IN JANUARY IF INVITATION FORMALIZED.

5. DENKTASH SAID THAT IF HE WENT TO WASHINGTON HE WOULD "EXPECT TO BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT CARTER FOR TEN MINUTES, A HANDSHAKE, AND A PHOTOGRAPH", NOTING THAT IT WAS ONLY EQUITABLE HE BE GIVEN AS MUCH TIME AS KYPRIANOU HAD RECEIVED. I SAID MY INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED NOTHING ON THIS SCORE. MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT WOULD, I FELT, BE VERY DIFFICULT OWING TO THE RECOGNITION PROBLEM. I ASKED IF IN SO SAYING HE WAS POSING A PRECONDITION TO WASHINGTON VISIT. HE REPLIED, " NO, THIS IS NOT A PRECONDITION. I AM CONFIDENTIAL

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SIMPLY TELLING YOU AS A FAIR PERSON THAT I WULD EXPECT PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS ON JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS, TO RECEIVE ME FOR TEN MINUTES AS THE LEADER OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY. I KNOW HE COULD NOT RECEIVE ME AS PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH FEDERATED STATE. I WOULD BE HAPPY TO SUBSCRIBE TO A STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE MEETING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD MET WITH MR. RAUF DENKTASH, LEADER OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY IN CYPRUS."

6 AT THIS POINT, DENKTASH REVERTED TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MISSING PERSONS AGREEMENT, SAYING EXPLICIT MENTION OF MAJORITY DECISION WAS "OUT" EVEN WITH THE QUALIFYING FINAL SENTENCE IN SUPPLEMENTARY PARA ONE. ESPECIALLY ON DISINTERMENT, ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSENSUS MUST BE EXPLICIT. ICRC MEMBER SHOULD NOT HAVE A VOTE IN COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS. I REMINDED DENKTASH THAT IT WAS HE WHO HAD UPSET THE DELICATE BALANCE OF WORKING PAPER #3, REV 4, PARA TWO ON DECISION-MAKING BY INSISTING ON CONSENSUS FOR DISINTERMENT. THIS HAD CONFIRMED THE WORST FEARS OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS ABOUT TURKS' QUEST FOR LANGUAGE THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO BLOCK EFFECTIVE

OPERATION OF MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE. IT HAD CAUSED THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE TO INSIST ON EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO MAJORITY DECISION SOMEWHERE AND HAD RESULTED IN EMBASSY'S DRAFT ON SUPPLEMENTARY PARA ONE ATTEMPTING TO ACCOMODATE BOTH SIDES. DENKTASH GAVE NO SIGN OF YIELDING, AND RATHER THAN REENFORCE THE NEGATIVE, I TURNED THE CONVERSATION BACK TO SEQUENCE. HE CONFIRMED HIS AGREEMENT ON THE DESIRABILITY OF THE SEQUENCE WE HAD DISCUSSED.

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7. SUBSEQUENTLY, AT THE SAME SOCIAL OCCASION I SAW THE TURKISH CHARGE. CHARGE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM AMBASSADOR ONHON IN ANKARA THAT AFTERNOON. ONHON HAD ASKED HIM HIM TO TELL ME THAT MISSING PERSONS FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN FOREIGN MINISTRY DISCUSSIONS DEC 20. I INFORMED THE TURKISH CHARGE OF MY CONVERSATION WITH DENKTASH. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD TELEPHONE THIS TO ANKARA AT OPENING OF BUSINESS DEC 21. POSSIBILITY OF A WASHINGTON VISIT BY DENKTASH WOULD BE REGARDED AS VERY SIGNIFICANT BY GOT AND WOULD, HE FELT, HAVE A FAVORABLE IMPACT ON DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY IN ANKARA.

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH I CAREFULLY FOLLOWED DEPT'S INSTRUCTION, I AM NOT SURE DENKTASH TOOK THE POINT THAT HE DOES NOT REALLY HAVE AN INVITATION, OR PERHAPS HE DELIBERATELY SOUGHT TO MOVE BEYOND THIS BY WELCOMING THE IDEA AND, IN EFFECT, ACCEPTING THEN AND THERE.

9. MY CONVERSATION WITH DENKTASH TOOK PLACE BEFORE
RECEIPT OF GENEVA 12509. I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S
GUIDANCE AS TO HOW THE ICRC POSITION ON VOTING CAN BE
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WOVEN INTO ONGOING DISCUSSIONS HERE, HOPEFULLY IN
SUCH A WAY AS TO SURMOUNT THE CURRENT IMPASSE ON
DECISION-MAKING.

10. FURTHER TO FINAL PARA OF REF B, I CONTINUE TO
FEEL IT IMPORTANT THAT DEPT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY ANKARA
TO SUPPORT FLEXIBILITY ON MISSING PERSONS AT A HIGH
LEVEL WITHIN GOT TOMORROW AT THE LATEST. THIS IS
PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE AS APPROACH CAN NOW HAVE THE
STRONG PLUS ELEMENT OF REFERENCE TO A CLIFFORD
INVITATION TO DENKTASH. END COMMENT.
CRAWFORD

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